

JONES-MENARD HOUSE
TREMONT - ILLINOIS

HABS. NO. ILL-281
HABS
ILL,
90. TREMO,
1-

Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
DISTRICT NO. ILL-2

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
• EDGAR E. LUNDEEN • DISTRICT OFFICER •
CORN BELT BANK BUILDING - BLOOMINGTON, ILL.

JONES-MENARD HOUSE
Tremont, Tazewell County, Illinois

Owner. Mrs. John G. Railsback,
Ashland, Nebraska.

Date of Erection. 1845.

Architect. None.

Builder. John Albert Jones.

Present Condition. The main building stands as originally constructed, and is fairly well preserved. The wing towards the east appears to have been a somewhat later addition.

Number of Stories. Two, and basement.

Materials of Construction. The basement walls and foundation are rough limestone, 16" thick. The superstructure is brick masonry, 13" thick on the main two story part, and 9½" on the east wing. The interior partitions are 11" brick masonry on the first floor, and on the second floor are 3½" frame. The joists are 2" x 12", 18" on centers. All interior trim is white pine. The flooring in the bathroom and dining room is 1½" hard maple. All other floors are random width white pine.

The roof is supported by oak timbers in skeleton form, namely: 8" x 10" oak beams braced by 8" x 8" oak cords and 8" x 8" queen posts with 4" x 4" braces. The 8" x 8" oak beams extend across the gable ends and support the gable wall. The rafters are 2" x 4" oak and 2'-0" on centers. The roof of the main building is wood shingles, and the roof

on the east wing is tin, with standing seams.

Other Existing Records. None.

Additional Data. "My father, John Albert Jones, built the house in 1845. He sold it to Peter Menard for \$4000.00, and there were ten acres. I was born in it in 1846. When my father had an office as Superintendent of Statistics, the first appointment Lincoln made after forming his cabinet, my mother took us to Bloomington to be with our grandparents, the William T. Majors. Mr. Major built Major's Hall, a three story red brick building in Bloomington, now famous as the site of Lincoln's "Lost Speech."

After Lincoln's speech in this hall in 1856, Judge David Davis, Judge Lyman Trumbull and the Honorable Leonard Sivell drove thirty miles down to our Tremont house to discuss this speech and the organization of the Republican party with my father.

My father built this house similar to their Georgetown, D. C. home. When my father decided to move to Springfield in 1866, he sold this house to Peter Menard, son of Pierre Menard, the Indians' friend. The first guest I recall in that house was Bishop Philander Chase, the first Episcopal bishop of Illinois. Mr. Lincoln also was a frequent guest.

I remember many notables in our Tremont house. Tom Corwin, the great orator in Lincoln's campaign, and Gov. Webb of Ohio. Peter Menard lived in a small, white, frame house three miles out.

At a Lincoln rally in 1860, forty dined in our dining room and one hundred widewakes came in it for supper. I

know my old home is now called the Menard place--Lincoln was never in that house after 1860."

Peter Menard (changed from Pierre) was the son of Pierre Menard, the first Lieutenant Governor of Illinois.

References: Letter from Mrs. Eugenia J. Hunt
199 Linden Street
Winnetka, Illinois
Dated February 22, 1937.

Article written by Mrs. Hunt in
"The Daily Pantagraph" of Bloomington, Illinois,
March 10, 1937.

Loren Van Alstyne

(Approved)

Walter E. Lunden
District Officer

(111) 7/28/57